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coming respect, lay their complaint before your honourable house.

In affirming that your honourable house is not an adequate representation of the people of England your petitioners do but state a fact, which, if the word "Representation" be accepted in its fair and obvious sense, they are ready to prove, and which they think detrimental to their interests, and contrary to the spirit of the constitution.

How far this inadequate representation is prejudicial to their interests, your petitioners apprehend, they may be allowed to decide for themselves; but how far it is contrary to the spirit of the constitution, they refer to the consideration of your honourable house.

Your petitioners complain, that the elective franchise is so partially and so unequally distributed, that it is only exercised once in seven years; that the right of voting is regulated by no uniform or rational principle; and that the majority of your honourable house is elected by less than the two-hundredth part of the people to be represented.

Of the complicated rights of voting, your petitioners have also a great reason to complain, for, from the caprice with which they have been varied, and the obscurity in which they are now involved by time and contradictory decisions, they are become a source of infinite confusion, litigation, and expense; for the management and conduct of polls is committed to returning officers, who, from the nature of the proceedings, must be invested with extensive and discretionary powers, and who, it appears by every volume of your Journals, have but too often exercised those powers with the most gross partiality, and the most scandalous corruption.

Of elections arranged with such little regard to the accommodation of the parties; acknowledged to require such a length of time to complete, and trusted to the superintendence of such suspicious agents, your petitioners might easily draw out a detail of the enormous expense; and, in addition to this, they cannot but notice, with abhorrence, the destruction of public morals, by the shameful and almost general system of perjury, bribery, and corruption, which is not only practised with the most unblushing effrontery, but attempted to be justified, and even gloried in, to the eternal disgrace of the parties.

Your petitioners likewise complain of

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that extensive system of private patronage, which is so repugnant to the spirit of free representation, an encroaching evil, and an abuse which obviously tends to exclude the great mass of the people from any substantial influence in the election of the House of Commons, and which, in its progress, threatens to usurp the sovereignty of the country, to the equal danger of the King, the Lords, and the Commons.

Your petitioners are more alarmed at the progress of private patronage, because it is rapidly leading to consequences which menace the very existence of the constitution; because it tends to overthrow the independence of the House of Commons; and because it gives to individuals that unjust property, in the liberty of their fellow citizens, which no individual ought to possess.

Anxious to restore, and preserve in its original purity, a constitution they love and admire, your petitioners beseech your honourable house to take such measures as to your wisdom may seem meet, to remove the evils arising from the present unequal, unjust, and ruinous state of the representation; and to regulate the right of voting upon an uniform and equitable principle; and finally, to shorten the duration of Parliaments; and by removing the causes of that confusion, litigation, and expense, with which they are at present conducted, to render new and frequent elections, what their ancestors at the Revolution asserted them to be, the means of a happy union and good agreement between the King and people.

TREATY OF UTRECHT, ARTICLE 18th.

"It shall be lawful for all and singular the subjects of the Queen of Great Britain, and of the Most Christian King, to sail with their ships, with all manner of liberty and security, no distinctions being made who are the proprietors of the merchandize laden thereon from any port to the places of those who are now, or shall hereafter be, at enmity with the Queen of Great Britain, or of the Most Christian King; it shall likewise be lawful for the subjects and inhabitants aforesaid to sail with the ships and merchandize aforementioned, and to trade with the same liberty and security from the places, ports, and havens of those who are enemies of both or of either party, without any opposition or disturbance whatsoever, not only directly from the places of the ene-

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my aforementioned to neutral places, but from one place belonging to an enemy, to another place belonging to an enemy, whether they be under the jurisdiction of the same prince, or under several. And it is now stipulated concerning ships and goods, *that FREE ships shall also give FREEDOM to goods*, and that every thing shall be deemed free and exempt, which shall be found on board the ships belonging to either of the confederates, although the whole lading, or any part thereof, shall pertain to the enemies of either; and excepting the contraband of war, and ports actually blockaded,

THE ADDRESS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLICS OF IRELAND, TO HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS OF WALES, ON HER ESCAPE FROM THE CONSPIRACY.

"May it please your Royal Highness,

"We, the Roman Catholic People of Ireland, beg leave to offer our unfeigned congratulations on your providential escape from the Conspiracy which so lately endangered both your life and honour; a Conspiracy, unmanly in its motives, unnatural in its object, and unworthy in its means; a Conspiracy, combining so monstrous an union of Turpitude and Treason, that it is difficult to say, whether Royalty would have suffered more from its success, than Human Nature has from its conception! Our allegiance is not less shocked at the infernal spirit which would sully the Diadem, by breathing on its most precious ornament the Virtue of its Wearer, than our best feelings are at the inhospitable baseness, which would betray the innocence of a Female, in a Land of Strangers!!

"Deem it not disrespectful, illustrious Lady, that, from a people proverbially ardent in the cause of the defenceless, the shout of virtuous congratulation should re-

ceive a feeble echo. Our Harp has been long unused to tones of gladness, and our hills but faintly answer the unusual accent. *Your* heart, however, can appreciate the silence inflicted by SUFFERING; and *ours*, alas! feels, but too acutely, that the commiseration is sincere, which flows from SYMPATHY.

"Let us hope, that, when congratulating VIRTUE in your Royal Person, on her signal triumph over the perjured, the profligate, and the corrupt, we may also rejoice in the completion of its consequences. Let us hope, that the society of your *only child* again solaces your dignified retirement, and that, to the misfortune of being a WIDOWED WIFE, is not added the pang of being a CHILDLESS MOTHER!

"But if, Madam, our hopes are not fulfilled, if, indeed, the cry of an indignant and unanimous people is disregarded, console yourself with the reflection, that, though your exiled Daughter may not hear the precepts of Virtue from your lips, she may, at least, study the practice of it in your example."

MERITS OF SAMUEL WHITBREAD,

Extracted from an Address to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, from the inhabitants of the town of Bedford.

"We feel no common exultation in being the electors of a representative to the British Parliament, who has taken a prominent part in vindicating the insulted honour of your Royal Highness; while his exertions claim our gratitude, they do not excite surprise; for, wherever innocence is to be defended; oppression counteracted; the liberty and interest of the country supported; or the welfare and happiness of mankind pleaded; there we look for him among the foremost, and we have never been disappointed."

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

ON the 24th ult. the Catholic relief bill, as it is called, was abandoned for the present session of Parliament; and on the 25th, as if it were to appear that no time was to be lost, leave was moved for a revival of the statutes which prevented improper persons from having arms in Ireland. The motion was made by the Irish secretary,